

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-6 and 10-36 are pending. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are amended, claims 7-9 are canceled, and claims 21-36 are added. Claim 4 is amended to correct the informality listed in item 1 of the office action.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claim 3 if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully traversed. The specification and drawings also disclose the first and second buckle-lowering belts being attached to the same buckle-lowering retractor. Specifically, the second embodiment of the present invention, which is disclosed in Figs. 5-7 and on pages 35-51 of the specification, discloses a single buckle-lowering retractor 220 for both buckle-lowering belts 94 and 96. Therefore, this rejection for claim 3 should be withdrawn. Claim 3 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, claim 3 is allowable. Claims 4-6, and 10-20, which depend from claim 3, are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein.

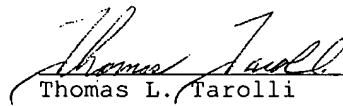
Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Spinoso et al. Claim 1 is amended to recite a device operatively associated with at least one of said first and second buckle-lowering belts, said device

The occupant restraint system further comprises at least a first buckle-lowering retractor. The first buckle-lowering belt has a first end that is attached to the buckle assembly and a second end that is attached to said first buckle-lowering retractor. Neither Spinosa et al. nor any of the other prior art discloses or suggests all of the features of claim 21. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable. Claims 22-36, which depend from claim 21, are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas L. Tarolli
Reg. No. 20,177

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,
& TUMMINO L.L.P.
1300 East Ninth Street, Suite 1700
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072
Customer No.: 26,294